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THE MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY OF TEXAS AND THE DISEASES OF
THE ARMY OF INVASION.

By George Johnson, M.D., late Surgeon in the United States Army.

THE Brazos Santiago Island, Texas, has become a place of much importance since the present war with Mexico commenced. From May last, to the present time, all troops, destined for the "army of occupation and invasion," have been landed at the Brazos, and on account of the difficulties of transportation at the commencement of the war, many of the regiments remained encamped upon the island for several weeks. During the last summer most of the volunteer regiments have been stationed along the banks of the Rio Grande, between Matamoras and the mouth of the river. Much has been said in the newspapers, and elsewhere, of the unhealthfulness of this region, but I have not seen the true causes assigned for the great mortality which has occurred amongst our troops upon the Rio Grande; I will, therefore, at your request, give you a brief sketch of the medical topography of this region, together with some of the causes which have led to this mortality. Hereafter I hope to see this subject discussed by the medical officers of the army, many of whom have had far better opportunities, than fell to my lot, for obtaining correct information on this head, particularly those accomplished surgeons, Drs Wood and Wells, at Point Isabel, and Dr. Wright and his assistants, at the general hospital at Matamoras.

The Brazos Island, it might be inferred from the many statements that have been made, is particularly unhealthy, from its location. This, I think, cannot be the case. Though a dreary and uninteresting sand bar, I believe it to be as healthful as Galveston, or any other spot along the Gulf coast. The island is about four miles in length, and one and a half in breadth. It would be almost level with the Gulf, but for the sand hills which line its southern extremity for half a mile. There are some two or three ponds on the island, called on the maps of the country, fresh-water ponds, though I found them quite salty on trial. These ponds are situated about a mile and a half from the sand hills (the place of encampment of the troops), and to the north. The sea breeze blows almost continually from the south-west, so that no deleterious effects can arise from them. This breeze usually commences about 9, A. M., and continues throughout the night, making

sleep delightful and refreshing. By it the sun's heat is rendered less oppressive, and there was not a day so warm, during our stay upon the Island, which was during the month of June, as to prevent the men of our regiment from perambulating it from end to end on fishing and hunting excursions. Here, too, the men enjoyed the pleasure and benefit of bathing. I have understood that the Mexicans considered the Brazos healthy prior to the arrival of our troops, and I learned from an American woman, a native of North Carolina, who has lived upon the Island for several years, that her family, consisting of six children, had enjoyed excellent health since her residence there. Yet she had occupied, during the whole time, a miserable little shed, only partially covered with ox hides.

The Mexicans who were taken prisoners at Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, were employed in the Quartermaster's department, at the Brazos, and though these men were exposed, day after day, to the heat of the sun, in their labors about the shipping, yet I never knew a case of sickness to occur amongst them. The other employees of the Quartermaster's department, such as teamsters, carpenters, &c., also retained their healths whilst the troops, at the same period, were suffering with diarrhœas and dysenteries. I accounted for this circumstance, thus: these teamsters were making daily trips to the mouth of the Rio Grande (nine miles), and they kept their messes well supplied with the excellent water of that river. Besides, they had learned to cook their food properly, and they slept in the dry and comfortable Government storehouses, whilst the troops were lying under tents, upon the wet sand, eating food that was only partially cooked, and drinking the brackish water from the wells that it was almost impossible to retain upon the stomach.

It is known to all military men, and to the profession, that dysenteries and diarrhœas are camp diseases, and are common to every location where troops are encamped for a few weeks. Our regiment was encamped for about a week at Algiers, opposite New Orleans, and it was very rainy weather during the time; in consequence, dysenteric affections became numerous. At the present time, the troops stationed at Santa Fe are suffering severely with these diseases, and it will not be denied that Santa Fe is a healthy town.

The water used by the troops at the Brazos, is obtained by digging small wells in the sand, usually to the depth of two feet. The water obtained from a well recently made was not very unpalatable, being the rain water contained in the upper surface of the sand, but in a short time the salt water from beneath would be mixed with it, thus rendering the well useless, so that new wells were constantly being made, and, as the space occupied by the troops was only about half a mile in extent, and one hundred and fifty yards wide (in rainy and stormy weather all the rest of the Island being covered with water), and as this sand hill ridge has been occupied by troops since the 20th of May last, even as many as three regiments having been stationed here at one time, it can readily be understood how the water of this ridge is affected.

The troops that have, from time to time, sojourned at the Brazos, have been for the most part volunteers, and they have had much more to learn than the drill and discipline. They have been compelled to take a few lessons in the culinary art—particularly so far as related to the cooking of pork and beans—a knowledge of which was not obtained until the pains of colic had been experienced more than once. It would be fair to say that the beans of every volunteer regiment are not half cooked, for, at least, the first month of service. Besides, the young soldier is apt to indulge in every excess. He will lie down on the wet ground without his blanket. The old soldier is more prudent—he may drink a little too much whiskey (if he can get it), but he will not expose himself unnecessarily to the sun's heat at mid-day, in fishing or hunting. Neither will he eat the coarse and unwholesome food that a recruit will swallow with avidity. The old soldiers of our regiment were the only men who would not indulge in eating red fish, oysters and crabs, while on the island. They were influenced, in part, by the example of the Mexicans, who eschew these luxuries during the summer months.

The country between Matamoras and the mouth of the Rio Grande, is low, with lakes every few miles, between which is interspersed the chapparel and prairie—the only elevation being the ridge of Burita, upon which the village is situated, and one nearly parallel with it on the opposite side of the river. These ridges, commencing at Burita, extend up the river about a mile. These elevations have been occupied by troops during the last summer, and I can speak for those encamped upon the ridge of Burita, as having enjoyed a very good share of health. There was a marked improvement in the health of the St. Louis Legion, after they encamped here. Red fish, oysters and crabs, could not now be obtained. Good water was within reach, and the beans were boiling in the camp kettles at an earlier hour than formerly. Here, too, was felt the delightful and invigorating sea-breeze, but sleep was not so sweet as at the Brazos. Centipedes (some of them six inches in length), tarantulas, and other venomous and creeping things, would travel over a man's nose, occasionally, and wake him up before reveille.

Immediately south of Burita, there is a fresh-water lake of considerable size, and about half a mile on the opposite side of the ridge there is a salt lake. Fresh and salt lakes may be seen in close contiguity in this vicinity.

The Mexicans in Matamoras, and those who live at the ranches in the neighborhood, are as healthy a looking people as I ever saw. I visited, during the months of July and August last, many ranches, where I saw children, and I do not remember to have seen one child that had an unhealthy appearance. In many regions of this (Mississippi) valley, during the same months, it would not be surprising to find half the members of every family laboring under remittent and intermittent fevers. The only sick Mexican I saw while in the country (except the wounded in the hospital at Matamoras), was a woman with

intermittent fever, at Brazos Island. I was afterwards informed by an old Frenchman, who had lived for many years on a ranche near Matamoras, that the fever and ague was the only disease that prevailed in the neighborhood, but that the "chills" were not as severe as those he used to have in Louisiana—here the patient got well in a few days, without, perhaps, being obliged to keep the bed.

I have remarked that the Mexicans have, universally, good teeth—an indication, certainly, of good health, and I venture the assertion, that there are as many old people, according to the population, as can be found in any part of the United States. I will further state that in Matamoras I became acquainted with several American merchants who had resided in that city for several years. They informed me that the country was healthy—that they had enjoyed better health in Mexico than in the United States. I therefore believe that the great mortality amongst our troops upon the Rio Grande, during the last summer, was owing to the imprudence of the men—to bad cooking, to a neglect of proper police, in most of the volunteer regiments, and to the necessity which compelled the soldier to lie upon the wet ground during a rainy season.

Most of the cases of diarrhœa were preceded by colic, and could be traced to some imprudence in eating. The most successful mode of treatment I found, was to empty the bowels with castor oil, particularly when there was tenderness or pain over the region of the abdomen, and then to administer large doses of opium, three or four grains, at intervals of four hours, until the bowels were constipated, and, after waiting forty-eight hours, to give a dose of castor oil and laudanum. This was the only plan of treatment that was curative. Hyd. cum creta, Dover's powder, with calomel, &c., were given without success at first. Though the cases of diarrhœa were so numerous, yet we did not lose a man out of our regiment with that disease.

Most of the cases of remittent and intermittent fevers supervened upon diarrhœa. The remittent fevers were of a low form and very obstinate in their character. What retarded recovery, especially in these cases, was a despondent state into which almost every patient sank. After a man had suffered with fever for a week, he either made up his mind to die, or became so dejected that it was almost impossible to persuade him that he would recover, or to rouse his feelings in any way. I saw a few cases of pure nostalgia, and I believe there were many such, during the first six months of service, amongst the young men of the army. The marasmus, after remittent fever, was striking, and convalescence remarkably slow. These patients had the same cadaverous appearance and haggard expression of countenance as is common to children who are laboring under tabes mesenterica. There was also that loose and wrinkled condition of the skin of the abdomen which is common in such cases. Diffusible stimulants were very freely given in these cases, and with the most happy effects.—*St. Louis Med. and Surg. Journal.*

A CASE OF INHALATION OF ETHER IN INSTRUMENTAL LABOR.

BY W. CHANNING, M.D.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I beg leave to offer you the following case for publication. It is indeed but a single instance of the use of ether in midwifery practice; still, such is the importance of that discovery which has abolished pain in so many, and in such a variety of cases—and such the state of opinion, and such the popular and professional interest, in everything bearing usefully on the subject, that I venture to present it in an amount of detail which otherwise might seem unnecessary. To my mind, in the present position of this great discovery, this is the most proper method of communicating such facts.

I look back on the occurrences of this trial of ether with entire satisfaction, and with the deepest pleasure. The ether did just what was looked for from its use. It did it at once, and with no circumstances of embarrassment or difficulty. When its influence was no longer needed, its effects passed quietly away, and left a repose—a continued sense of relief, which, in an equal degree, and like kind, I do not remember to have witnessed before. I shall with pleasure communicate through your Journal the results of such farther trials of ether as circumstances may seem to authorize me to make. And no one should venture upon such trials until he is perfectly satisfied that such circumstances exist. A case came under my observation this day, which impressed upon my mind very strongly the importance of this rule of practice. It was one of unusual severity, and the time of suffering was long. Still there were circumstances in the previous history of my patient, and in her actual condition, which deterred me from taking ether with me. Such, however, at length, was the urgency, I may say violence, of demand for relief, on any terms, and for the use of ether especially, that I sent for it. I felt that the moral conviction, always so powerful in labor, that relief would be obtained from this agent, might revive hope, and give encouragement, where a most depressing despair existed, and that thus the labor might be naturally terminated. Whether my reasoning were correct or not, I can say, that almost immediately after the messenger was despatched, efficient uterine contractions came on, which speedily, and safely, accomplished delivery.

I remain very truly yours,

Boston, May 11, 1847.

W. C.

Mrs. H., aged 23, was taken in labor, for the first time, May 5th, at 12 o'clock at night. I saw her between 9 and 10, of the morning of the 7th, in consultation with her medical attendant, Dr. W. E. Townsend. His pupil, Mr. Jerome Dwelley, was present, and who also from the beginning had faithfully attended to the case. The pains had been frequent and very severe. Some diminution of suffering had followed the exhibition of an opiate, which had been given before I saw the patient. Patient was well purged with castor oil day before labor. I found, on examination, the head fairly in the pelvis, where, I was told, it had been

many hours. There was no *show*. The vagina was swollen, rough, hot, especially about the urethra, or anterior part of the pelvis. The os uteri was somewhat dilated, but less in its anterior portion than elsewhere, though in no part of its circumference had it cleared the head. It was swollen, smooth, hard, undilatable. It gave just that feel which so strongly intimates that the labor will be protracted, and accompanied by much suffering. The scalp was much swollen, and protruded as a tumor of a conical shape through the firm ring formed by the undilated and undilatable os uteri.

Mrs. H. was comparatively easy, from the opiate apparently. Her pulse was natural. Her strength was not much exhausted. Her stomach bore food well. There was no cerebral trouble, and the bladder had been duly emptied by the catheter. Under these circumstances I suggested delay; and it was agreed to wait to observe the changes which might occur in the present rest, and on the recurrence of pains. I saw her again at noon. Belladonna ointment was recommended, as no important change had occurred in the state of the os uteri. I was called to see her at about 6, P. M., about forty-two hours since labor began. I learned, on reaching the address, that the ointment had been used, and a solution of tartarized antimony exhibited, and that some change had occurred in the os uteri, namely, that it was more dilatable. Her pulse was now 120 in the minute. It was less strong than at noon. She could speak only in a whisper, and with great difficulty even so. She complained of great distress and most earnestly entreated to be relieved of her terrible suffering. On examination I found the os uteri somewhat more dilatable, and it was agreed that the forceps should be used.

Dr. Townsend called on me to make the visit just related. I said to him, in my study, that this seemed a very fair case for the use of ether. He agreed with me in this opinion, and added that he had a quantity of pure ether at home, and a sponge of suitable size for its inhalation, and that he would meet me at his patient's house. We soon met there, and I proceeded to apply the forceps. I selected Davis's solid forceps, because they are narrow, thin, and very easily introduced, and seemed less likely to injure the os uteri than a broader and a thicker instrument. The application was perfectly easy, and I made an extracting effort, which was attended with very severe pain. Mrs. H. soon became quiet, and I desired Dr. T. to apply the sponge, saturated with ether, to the mouth and nose. This he did, and in about a minute she was under the full influence of the ether. The first inspiration produced a slight cough, as if the larynx had been irritated. It was like the sound by which an effort to remove some irritating matter from the air-passages is commonly accompanied. The next noticeable effect, and which was quite an early one, was a sudden movement of the body, such as is made sometimes when one is falling asleep, and has consciousness enough to know this, and to rouse the will into sufficient action to prevent it. It was involuntary, still it did not convey the idea of being spasmodic, in any morbid understanding of the term. She was directed to open her eyes, to answer questions, &c., but gave not the least evidence of consciousness of anything said. I now proceeded to extract. The os uteri at once came

down again, and much embarrassed the operation, so that I desired Mr. Dwelley to pass his fingers between the shoulders of the forceps and the symphysis pubis, and gently press the protruding os uteri upwards. He did so, and thus removed that part from the chance of injury. The extraction was continued at intervals. Not the smallest complaint was made. The womb was roused to action, and strong expulsive efforts were made. The head advanced, and everything promised well. But at length the head became again firmly fixed, and this to a degree which prevented its being moved by any such force as I believed it safe to employ. I removed the forceps. The effects of the ether passed off, but as soon as consciousness returned, most earnest demands were made for more. "Put it to my mouth—I shall faint—you must"; in short, all forms of entreaty were made use of to obtain the entire relief that the ether had produced. She had at first refused to employ it. The ether had been now used up, and a short delay took place while a further supply was sent for. I perforated the cranium, fixed the hook, and made some extracting effort. Again was complaint made of the suffering which was immediately produced by the traction. The repose had been entire since consciousness had returned. She thought she was delivered. Said that she had *sense*, knew that she was alive, after the sponge was put to her mouth, but that she had no *feeling* after, and knew not what had happened. She had passed the time in most entire freedom from all pain. She said that there had been light before her eyes, and buzzing in her ears, and that she had been in another world. The aphonia had entirely disappeared, and her voice was natural. The ether was again applied to the mouth and nose, and when it was ascertained that its full effects were present, extracting effort was made by the hook. Again did the womb act, and the head advanced. Its progress was very slow. Much effort was demanded to bring the head along. The ether was used several times before the labor was over. In fact, she was most of the time inspiring the vapor, largely mixed with atmospheric air, for her pillow and bed-clothes were necessarily kept wet with it, from the mode of using it. There was no accident, or the least untoward circumstance attending the delivery. There was no pain—no complaint—no resistance of the effort used for delivery. The limbs were perfectly flaccid, and it was necessary that they should be kept separate by an assistant, and the whole weight of the upper one was to be supported. She came to herself soon after the child was born, and again expressed her entire ignorance as to everything that had been done. The placenta was separated, and reached the outlet by the unaided efforts of the womb, and no hemorrhage followed. A swathe was applied to the abdomen, and the patient made comfortable in her bed. I left soon after, having ascertained that her pulse was as good as it had been for some hours, and that everything promised well. It was impossible to determine what injury, if any, so long-continued pressure of the head had produced. The bladder had been carefully attended to, and the least possible amount of examination, I was told, had been made during the whole attendance on the case. The child had been dead some hours.

May 8th, 9, A. M.—I learned that soon after I left, the womb expelled from its cavity a large mass of coagula, with a gush of liquid blood. Cold was immediately applied to the abdomen, and the flow ceased. It was not so great as to affect at all her strength, or her pulse. I learned that she had passed an excellent night, and had slept as tranquilly as if under the kindest influence of opium. Her pulse was 108, of good strength and volume—tongue moist, head clear, and her whole state perfectly comfortable. We were particularly struck with these facts, in the distinct recollection of the long-continued suffering which a short time before had been endured. She had passed no water. The catheter was introduced with great ease, but got clogged with blood in its passage, so as to draw very little, if any urine. Mrs. H. said soon after that she felt a strong inclination to pass water, and in making an effort to do so there was expelled from the vagina a firm coagulum, and immediately after the urine followed voluntarily, and with perfect relief. Directions were given that the greatest quiet should be preserved, and sleep encouraged. Liquid farinaceous diet was ordered.

9th, A. M., 9 o'clock.—Mrs. H. slept most of yesterday, and less well last night. That is, was awake, but comfortable first part of night, slept latter part. Pulse now 104. Skin natural. No pain in abdomen, and no tenderness on pressure. Urine natural. Somewhat thirsty. Tongue slightly dry. No appearance of milk.

10th, 10, A. M.—Patient very comfortable. Pulse 108. Skin warm. Breasts distended and painful. Abdomen soft. Two dejections from 3 ij. ol. ric., and as much lemon juice. In all respects doing well.

Remarks.—The ether was applied by a sponge. It was very easily applied. The effect was produced very soon, in about a minute, say after about fourteen respirations, and when consciousness was returning, one or two respirations were enough to procure insensibility. The room, or the atmosphere about the patient, was saturated with ether. Was there not danger of explosion had a candle or lamp been brought into this atmosphere? I have heard of experiments which were designed to prove that this fear is groundless. I have not seen them, and should be unwilling to act in accordance with them. In the knowledge that equal parts of the vapor of ether and atmospheric air, produce a compound as explosive as hydrogen and oxygen, he who uses ether at night should be most cautious to keep a lighted candle or lamp at a distance from the patient. As our midwifery arrangements so frequently occur at night, this may sometimes be an inconvenience. We cannot examine the pulse or the countenance during the use of ether, which it is very desirable to do. But we had better lose such opportunity, than incur the least risk of the explosion of the gas.

Cases are reported of instrumental labor in a Paris hospital under the use of ether, which were fatal by the supervention of puerperal fever. But this result will hardly be ascribed to the ether used, or be made an objection to its use elsewhere, as puerperal fever existed at the time in the hospital, and everybody who knows anything of the disease, must be aware how readily it extends itself from patient to patient, especially in

hospitals. It is said that this is especially true of the hospitals in Paris. I have not in memory a case of instrumental labor of so much severity as this above reported, from which recovery was so rapid, or so complete, and in which suffering was so slight. I do not recollect that a complaint was made of any suffering, from the time of the inhalation to the day on which I made my last visit.

Not only in Paris, but in Edinburgh also, has this method been tried in labor. To no one is the profession more indebted than to Dr. Simpson, Professor in the Edinburgh University, on this behalf. I quote from Forbes's Medical Review, the latest No., the leading authority in medical literature in Europe, the following on the subject. I do it for the facts to which it refers, and especially for the caution with which the information is accompanied. From the same Review I make an extract which represents the opinion of Dubois, with an important remark from the reviewer.

"In a communication which we have received from Edinburgh, dated the 22d of March, Dr. Simpson states that he had, up to that date, used etherization some forty or fifty times, with the most perfect safety and success. We understand that he has kept it up *for hours*—in one woman four, in another six hours—without the fœtal heart varying above ten or twelve beats during the whole time, the mother in both cases recovering perfectly, and both, of course, astonished at being delivered without being aware of it. We believe that Dr. Simpson, in making these statements, still inculcates caution in the use of the new means; justly regarding all his own trials hitherto, bold as they are, as merely experimental, and as only first fruits which, however delightful and promising, may not be the positive harbingers of an abundant and a wholesome harvest." P. 568.—*The British and Foreign Medical Review*, edited by John Forbes, M.D., F.R.S., &c. &c., No. 46, April, 1846.

"M. Dubois's opinion is, on the whole, not in favor of the employment of ether in midwifery, although he admits that he has seen no ill effects that he could, with certainty, attribute to it. He thinks, 'that it should be restrained to a very limited number of cases, the nature of which ulterior experience will better allow us to determine.' He, however, confesses that the result of the cases he has treated in this manner, has lessened the fears with which he originally entered on the trial. We leave the Professor and the Baron—the doughty champions and learned representatives of the obstetrics of Paris and Edinburgh—to fight the battle between them. Time, at least, will ere long determine which of the two is in the right. We are disposed to believe that neither is absolutely so; and that here, as in many other instances of clashing opinions, the truth lies between."—*Ib.*, p. 569.

The action of the womb in the above case, in the absence of all voluntary agency, was very striking. Not only was there natural expulsive effort, which was aiding the manual, but the effort was marked occasionally by its usual audible expression, the *bearing down* which is so well known. I was reminded of this effort during insensibility, by a case of most severe puerperal convulsions, which came under my

notice the day after the above case. The organic effort, in the entire abolition of voluntary power, was most striking. I have known the child born by this organic agency, without the least apparent consciousness of the event on the part of the mother at the time, or memory of it afterwards. In this fact, established by so many, and so varied observations at home and abroad—in this fact of efficient uterine action, produced by a well-known agent, ether, and the use of which has thus far been so safe, and the application and *modus operandi* of which, a wider observation will do more and more to determine—may we not in these facts look with confidence to the time when labor will be accomplished with an ease, a freedom from suffering, quite as great as has hitherto been the pain which has accompanied it, and which has been regarded as its necessary condition?

DR DAVID MEREDITH REESE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

WE had supposed that our exposures of this individual, which we were compelled to make from time to time somewhat reluctantly, had been to him a source of sufficient humiliation, but with a recklessness that would do infinite credit to the "ring" or "cockpit," he seems disposed to invoke at our hands the infliction of still further disgrace. As we intimated in our last communication, it is repugnant to our feelings to hold a controversy with this man, as he evidently has no regard whatever for the truth, but as we are called upon indirectly, to furnish proof of his ignorance as well as duplicity, we hope the readers of this Journal will excuse us for saying anything further upon the subject.

We perceive that our adversary has lashed himself into a perfect fury of excitement; but we trust that he has not done himself any injury, for we are sure that he has done no injury to any one else. Had a "probang and sponge," charged with Dr. Green's strongest solution of the nitrate of silver, been wickedly introduced into his larynx, even down to the "bronchial bifurcation," he need not have exhibited a greater degree of frenzy.

In my last communication, I remarked that my opponent, notwithstanding he pretended to know all about the introduction of medicinal solutions into the larynx, had in truth not only been wholly ignorant of the subject until after the publication of Dr. Green's work, but that he had stated to others, within a year past, that it was utterly impossible to make such application to the laryngeal cavity. He cannot be other than fully conscious of having made such statements, and yet, to conceal his disgrace, this venal scribbler affirms that we have accused him wrongfully, and that such an accusation is an impeachment of his "intelligence and integrity." With regard to the "impeachment," there can be no issue between us, and if he is entitled to the "epithet, due to knavery as well as folly," it is no fault of ours. He must not expect to escape by any such a *ruse* as this; for his ignorance must be exposed,

his folly rebuked, and his duplicity exhibited fully to view. Among the gentlemen to whom our adversary stated that the interior of the larynx could not be reached by medicinal solutions, as was proposed by Dr. Green, is the Rev. Harvey Husted, of Stratford, Conn., who, in reply to a letter of inquiry upon the subject, writes substantially as follows, under date of March 6, 1847.

"I cannot, at this time, recollect the precise words which Dr. Reese used in making the impression on my mind, that *it was altogether impossible to apply medicines to the interior of the larynx*, as Dr. Green proposed to do; but that he made the impression unequivocally, I am as confident of as I am of any past event. The conversation was at his office, in the evening. Indeed, Dr. Reese will not deny that he said substantially that Dr. Green did not do what he proposed, but was mistaken. You are at liberty to use the above according to your discretion."

Mr. Husted is an honorable, high-minded gentleman, whose testimony cannot be impeached; and if it were necessary, we could introduce the testimony of similar witnesses, but the game is too worthless for any unnecessary expenditure of powder and shot.

Our opponent says, "The 'encomiums of Professors Mott and Revere' have never been pronounced except in the fictions of M. Mattson, and I have authority to pronounce the use of the former gentleman's name wholly fictitious." If there is any fiction in the case, it is with our adversary, and his fictions are usually of the most unparalleled character. We did not use the names of these distinguished gentlemen, whom we admire for their noble and excellent qualities of heart, as well as their extensive and profound acquirements, without understanding distinctly that they had spoken freely of Dr. Green's practice in their medical lectures, and given him the credit of making an important discovery. Indeed, we have heard it repeatedly stated, that Dr. Revere devoted three entire lectures to the subject, and that he bestowed upon Dr. Green the very highest encomiums. The class before which Drs. Mott and Revere lectured, was very large, and therefore whatever they may have said upon the subject was a matter of common notoriety. Hence, I have no hesitation in saying that my opponent has no authority whatever for using Dr. Mott's name in the manner he has; and that he is recklessly adding falsehood to falsehood, in his unholy and characteristic work of defamation.

My opponent still insists upon it that Trousseau and Belloc's work was published in book form in 1839. This is another of his *peculiar* "fictions," which he manufactures *ad libitum*, to suit his purpose. The work was published in book form by Carey & Hart, and not by Dunglison, and the title-page is dated 1841. Is not this a sufficient proof of the time of publication? Any one curious in the matter is at liberty to examine my copy. Instead of a "*suppressio veri*," therefore, as impudently charged to me, the case involves a "*suggestio falsi*" on the part of my opponent; and as he appears to be particularly fond of scraps of Latin, I would add, for his special edification, "*falsus in uno, falsus in omnibus*."

We learn from our opponent, that after having published his "review"

in the newspaper, he did not give up his name on the *compulsion* of John Doe; and we do not wonder that he should shrug up his shoulders even at the very mention of Mr. Doe. The truth is, unless common rumor does him exceeding injustice, he made some stirring appeals to this same uncongenial Mr. Doe, to "let him off," arguing very forcibly and justly, that to *retract* what he had said in the Commercial Advertiser of the 16th of December, would render him very ridiculous in the estimation of the profession, and truly he was a "prophet in his speech." He did make the retraction, nevertheless, for in the article alluded to, he charges Dr. Green distinctly with "gross plagiarism," and in the retraction, published in the same paper on the 29th of December, he says that this charge was not made against Dr. Green, but against the writer of the article in favor of Dr. Green's book, to which he replied. If this was not creeping through a key hole, then there is no truth in the story of Salem witchcraft.

With regard to the alleged exclusion of Dr. Green from the fellowship of the New York Medical and Surgical Society, it is enough to say that the statement emanates from Dr. Reese. This fact being known, comment is unnecessary; for when a man is convicted of falsehood, very little reliance will be placed upon his word. The charge is spoken of by Dr. Green's friends as utterly false and unfounded.

Our opponent endeavors to sustain himself by quoting from an article contained in the last No. of the American Journal of Medical Sciences, entitled "Green on Bronchitis," which article is written in the same spirit as those which he himself has already published. We think he was unfortunate in this, for the article in question is *anonymous*, and we supposed that Dr. Reese had too great a horror of anonymous productions, ever to give them any further notice. It seems, however, notwithstanding the *anonymous* character of the article, that he had *succeeded* in ascertaining the writer's name, and whether the production in question really belongs to the *genus* of "reviews" which have gone before it, remains yet to be seen. If it was written in a candid spirit, no one has any right to complain, excepting to point out its inaccuracies; but if it was written with a view of injuring and persecuting Dr. Green, then we must look upon it as improper and unjust. Dr. Green evidently has bitter enemies, and to what extent they may go in their efforts to injure him, is yet to be ascertained. We feel assured, however, that he does not need the advocacy of one so humble as ourself; and we would say to the editor of this Journal, as well as to his readers, that we shall have nothing more to say upon the subject of this controversy, unless our opponent is permitted to circulate additional falsehoods through its pages, and in that case we may or may not request the privilege of correcting them. Let us now conclude with Dr. Reese's Latin quotation, "*requiescat in pace,*" for truly we have no desire to disturb the *ashes of the dead*.

Boston, May 10, 1847.

M. MATTSON.

P. S.—Since the above was written, I have received the New York Medical and Surgical Reporter, of May 8, containing a long and ably

written article by Dr. Horace Green, explanatory of the proceedings of the New York Medical and Surgical Society in relation to himself, and truly has he been persecuted by a portion of its members with a most unrelenting bitterness, and all for no other reason than because he had originated a new method of treating laryngeal diseases. This Society, it appears, is a sort of social club, having twenty-five or thirty members. Those of them opposed to Dr. Green, ridiculed the idea, for a long time, of making applications to the interior of the larynx, and a distinguished surgeon exhibited anatomical preparations of the larynx, to prove the impossibility of the operation. At length the Society appointed a committee to investigate the matter for themselves, and calling upon Dr. Green, they saw the sponge of the instrument enter the interior of the larynx. Notwithstanding the announcement of this fact would have relieved Dr. Green of the odium which the profession were heaping upon him, the committee *withheld* their report for *eleven months*. At length, without being able to establish against Dr. Green a single charge of unprofessional conduct, the Society, or rather that portion of it opposed to Dr. G., passed a resolution requesting him, on the ground of personal dislike, to withdraw, &c. In summing up this matter, Dr. G. says, "It is for the commission of such deeds of wrong, injustice and oppression, as are here recorded, that has compelled me to renounce your Society; and has driven, and will drive from your association every member who regards his own reputation, or the honor and respectability of his profession. And it is in view of the facts herein stated—all of which are susceptible of proof, and would have been established, if the committee had been allowed to do its duty, and had not been suppressed by your star-chamber proceedings—that I charge upon members of your Society, of having banded together for evil; and of having united their influence with convicted libellers, and hireling defamers, to destroy the professional character and reputation of one of their associates, against whom, with all their covert inquiries, and self-appointed committees of investigation, they have not, and cannot sustain the shadow of a charge of unprofessional conduct."

In consequence of the proceedings of the Society, several of the members sent in their resignation. These are, Drs. John O. Stone, S. Conant Foster, F. Campbell Stewart, John H. Griscom, J. P. Garrish.

Dr. Foster, in his letter of resignation, says, "Dr. Green stood before the Society accused of no offence. And yet a resolution was offered requesting him to withdraw. It was openly avowed that personal dislike was to be the ground of this action. Personal animosity, then, was to take the place of justice.****The provision of the constitution was trampled under foot. The common courtesies of gentlemen were set aside."

Dr. Stone, in his letter of resignation, says, "The odium of this shameful act has been assumed by the majority of the members of the Society, and will, as it ought, be attached to them alone. Not having been an accomplice in the wrong, I am unwilling to seem to sanction it, by continuing to be a member any longer."

We may remark, not inappropriately, that the comparison of Dr. Green with the illustrious Jenner, which was made in the Commercial

Advertiser, in a commendatory notice of his book, was true at least so far as *persecution* is concerned. By the way, the communication referred to, which has called forth such a war of words, was written by the distinguished Dr. Ruschenberger, of the U. S. Navy, whom Dr. Green says he did not know till many weeks after the publication of the article. The implied charge of collusion, therefore, between Dr. Green and this distinguished gentleman, does not require refutation. M. M.

ETHEREAL INHALATION—DR. WELLS'S CLAIMS AS DISCOVERER.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—I beg to be indulged with a very brief space in your Journal, in order that I may say a word on the communication in your last No. by Dr. Horace Wells. It is not my intention to inflict a long controversy upon your readers—particularly as Dr. Wells's claims must seem to them too absurd to require any considerable attention.

In a note, published in the Boston Morning Post some time since, Dr. Wells pronounces my statements "gross misrepresentations of the truth," while in the communication above referred to he admits, in detail, their *entire correctness*—with a single exception, and that only as to a name, but not as to the facts reported. I understood Mr. Dixon to say that Dr. Wells had made certain statements to him, while he says they were made by Dr. Riggs, also of Hartford. We were speaking of Dr. W., there was much confusion in the Lobby of the House, and hence the misunderstanding.

Dr. Wells lays much stress upon an interview, in 1844, with Drs. Morton and Jackson, during which he pretends to have made certain suggestions, which led to the present discovery. In answer to this I will quote a passage from a letter of Dr. Jackson's, now before me, and which I received from Dr. J. while at Washington last January. He says (and I submit it for what it is worth), "I wish you to state in my behalf to Mr. Dixon, that Mr. Wells never said a word to me about the use of sulphuric or other ether vapor, nor ever mentioned the word ether in my presence."

It is known that, while in Paris the past winter, Dr. Wells made a communication to the *Academie des Sciences*, claiming priority of discovery in using sulphuric ether in surgery, although, at the same time, he states he had used nitrous oxide gas, which he still prefers. To show how these claims were received by the *Academie*, I have translated the account of their proceedings thereon, which I beg leave to submit, and with which I will close.

"*Academie des Sciences*—Sitting of Feb. 23d. Dr. Wells (of Hartford, Ct., U. States) addressed a communication to the *Academie* claiming the priority of the discovery of ether vapor and its application to practical surgery. He had, he said, communicated to Drs. Jackson and Morton his experiments and their results, who have since that time appropriated his idea. In conclusion, he says that it is no longer ether, but

the protoxide of azote (exhilarating gas) which he employs to prevent pain. M. Orfila does not believe that this gas *can be used with impunity*, instead of the vapor of ether; he believes himself warranted in concluding, in fine, from the numerous experiments made by Vanquelin, by Davy and by himself, *that this is a dangerous gas*. It otherwise appears that there has formerly been some question on this point. M. Geradin remembers that fifteen or eighteen years ago, a letter was addressed to the *Academie* by an English physician *who pretended*, by means of the nitrous oxide gas, *to render patients insensible to pain*. Larrey alone did not repel this communication with incredulity; he promised to make some experiments, which, doubtless, did not succeed, for the subject was not again agitated."

EDWARD WARREN.

Boston, May 14, 1847.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, MAY 19, 1847.

The late National Convention.—It was our intention to have devoted a little time, the present week, to a notice of the transactions of the late National Medical Convention, but the press of business has in a measure interfered with the plan, and we must therefore return to the subject not only again, but perhaps frequently.

One measure of the Convention, which proposes that the lecture terms shall be extended to six months in all the medical colleges in the Union, will be hard to digest, although carried triumphantly through the Convention. The fact is, these institutions are independent bodies, with chartered rights which cannot be wrenched from them. They may be induced by the force of public opinion to vary very considerably the present system of lecturing, but cannot be driven or persuaded to continue the annual series of lectures any longer than the judgment of the faculties determines. Students could not be kept together so long without some new and stronger motive than has yet been presented to them. Both professors and pupils, we fear, would loathe the sight of each other before the term was brought to a close. In the fickle climate of New England it is a question whether either party could endure the fatigue of a six months' session, without suffering in health. Again, at least one third, if not more, of the students entering upon the study of medicine, could not procure the means of defraying their personal expenses, six months in succession. But as the ground was thoroughly surveyed by the advocates and opponents of the scheme, we shall neither go over it again, nor present a category of new arguments in opposition to the expressed will of a majority, but frankly state what we believe to be true, viz., that New England will not conform to the proposed measure, and that the institution which first announces the long term system, will droop and die.

The meeting of the Convention in Philadelphia was delightful, and our recollections are of a very pleasant kind. At no period in the history of the republic, have so many physicians been together from its different por-

tions. Good must result from the interviews which gentlemen had with each other; and the warm friendships that were commenced on that agreeable occasion, will be promotive of kindness and fraternal feeling. The public doings, also, of the Convention will exert a beneficial influence, although the progress of reform must necessarily be slow and perhaps tedious.

Institutes of Medicine.—When notice was given, a week or two since, of the appearance of a very large volume, "*The Institutes of Medicine*," by Martyn Paine, M.D., Professor in the University of New York, it was supposed that by reading it, we should be prepared to speak of its merits or demerits; but grieve to acknowledge that we are still unable to decide in what rank to place it. That Dr. Paine is a learned man, no one would think of denying—and with respect to the virtue of personal industry, he has no competitor on this continent. Yet there is a monotony in some of his most powerful bibliographical efforts, constantly operating against the influence he wishes to exert over the minds of others. Whether this grows out of over-much learning, or a want of tact in the management of a subject, is a problem. He labors under the misfortune of over-doing: in other words, the thread of discourse is drawn out longer and finer than the circumstances of the case require, and therefore, the present race of railroad speed students have neither the courage nor the patience to begin, and certainly not to finish his more elaborate productions. At some period in the future, these continued efforts of a vigorous intellect, either unappreciated or not comprehended in this age, may bud, blossom and bear fruit. It is the fate of some to have lived too soon—and it is possibly true in this instance. Honoring genius, wherever found, and believing that the example set by Dr. Paine, who is indefatigable in the pursuit of truth, is worthy of imitation by all who are engaged in scientific investigations, it would be morally wrong not to acknowledge that in these respects he deserves success as an author, and to hope that he may receive it.

The table of contents presents a great variety of topics, upon which Dr. Paine has exerted, to a great extent, his powerful pen: viz.—vital principles and their properties; the mind; common functions; peculiar functions; vital habit; age, temperament; races of mankind; climate, usages and death. Pathology; therapeutics and blood-letting. These various topics have been treated fully, so that little or nothing more remains to be said upon them, at least in the manner peculiar to Dr. Paine. The further we carry our investigations into the researches of this untiring author, the more obvious it is that his thinking is of no common order. He has grappled with intense vigor a train of great thoughts, but commentators will differ in opinion with respect to the manner in which they are handled, and the utility of researches like those presented in the *Institutes*.

Although the mass of the profession may not readily admit that Dr. P. has analyzed the laws of nature more satisfactorily than those who have preceded him, and although we confess ourselves undecided in regard to the practical value of his work, we are unwilling to leave the subject without expressing a hope that patient and profound scholars—those who love science because its treasures are of inestimable value to mankind—will bestow that care upon it, which the magnitude of its contents demands—not to find fault, but to praise whatever is praiseworthy, and determine the extent of Dr. Paine's claims as an author, and as a public teacher in a great school of medicine.

Anniversary Dinner of the Massachusetts Medical Society.—A correspondent, in a communication with a Greek signature, manifests a high degree of gentlemanly dudgeon at the last year's dinner of our State Medical Society. He disliked the apple pies, the ice creams, the lemonade, &c., and then the cooking, generally, was abominable in his estimation. He contrasts this state of things with the neatness of Messrs. Holman & Clark's table, the season before, &c. We were not aware that the defects of which the writer complains were so flagrant. We trust that at the coming anniversary the dishes will suit his palate better. Many a man, in this hard world, is thankful for a crust. Out of the abundance which will probably be furnished on that occasion, we trust our friend may pick out enough to stay his stomach through the day.

Another communication, under the signature of "Moxa," has been received, equally severe in condemnation of last year's dinner, which, as the writer says, "would give the cholera morbus to Pharaoh's lean kine;" also complaining of the "abominable looking books" annually delivered to the members of the Society, and demanding a "reform in the Council."

Wilson's System of Human Anatomy.—One of the best evidences of the popularity of a book, aside from its intrinsic usefulness, is the repetition of editions. Messrs. Lea & Blanchard have actually brought out the third American edition of Wilson's Anatomy, under the editorial supervision of Paul B. Goddard, M.D., Professor of Anatomy in the Franklin Medical College—containing 233 illustrations by the celebrated Gilbert. A further notice of this excellent work is not required, since its character is established wherever the science of which it treats is publicly taught. Copies are to be had of Ticknor & Co., Washington street.

Lawrence on Diseases of the Eye.—A new and carefully-prepared edition of *A Treatise on the Diseases of the Eye*, by W. Lawrence, Esq., Surgeon to the Queen, &c., edited, with numerous additions, and 176 illustrations, by Dr. Isaac Hays, of Philadelphia, is another admirable production from the press of Messrs. Lea & Blanchard. Among the additions made to this, are the descriptions of several affections of the eye not spoken of in the original. Also, several chapters on the more important diseases, from more than twenty years' devotion to the subject. The volume contains 856 pages. Having on a former occasion pointed out the essential qualities of this accurate and judiciously-constructed treatise, it is unnecessary to repeat what was then advanced. Ticknor & Co., also, have this, at a reasonable price.

Therapeutic Pocket-book for Homœopaths.—This is a compact volume, published by Otis Clapp, School street, Boston, which exhibits a prodigious amount of labor on the part of the author as well as translator. The title runs thus: "Bonninghausen's Therapeutic Pocket Book, for Homœopaths; to be used at the bedside of the patient and in the study of the *Materia Medica*. Edited by A. Howard Okie, M.D." We pretend to know but little about the system of practice pursued by the homœopaths, save what is gathered from their works, and it would be presumption to

praise or condemn the book from opinions founded on them alone. We never have doubted the sincerity of a great many practitioners whom we happen to know engaged in the new school. Some of them are men in earnest pursuit of truth, with an honest desire to manage diseases with success—and although we believe they are following a shadow, it would be morally wrong to suppress this individual view of the motives which actuate them. If a person is to be guided by the wise ones of the order, the minuteness of this Pocket-book must meet their wants and their highest approbation, because there is apparently nothing homœopathic omitted, in the range of their *materia medica*.

Hartford Retreat for the Insane.—The 23d Annual Report shows that the affairs of this institution are in a prosperous condition. Number of patients at the commencement of the year, 116; added during the year, 111; total 227. Discharged during the year, 109—viz., 56 recovered; 19 much improved; 16 improved; 7 not improved; and 11 died. There are 118 now remaining. The Retreat has been open 23 years, during which time 1671 patients have been admitted. Of these, 902 have recovered, and 651 have been discharged improved, or have died. The per centage of recoveries has been, on the whole number admitted, 54 per cent.; on the discharges, 58 per cent.

Death of Prof. Warner.—We regret to notice the death of Augustus L. Warner, M.D., of Richmond, formerly Professor of Surgery in the University of Virginia, but for several years past holding the same professorship in the Medical Department of Hampden and Sidney College. He was a man of brilliant talents, one who had laid deep the foundations of medical education, and who had kept pace with the rapid progress of the different departments of medical science; an adroit and skilful operator, an eloquent lecturer and teacher, who always carried with him the enthusiasm of his hearers. His death will be lamented by the community in which he lived, by the profession which has profited by his wisdom and counsel, and by the institution of which he was the friend and ornament.

The late Professor Revere.—At a numerous meeting of the Alumni and Students of the University of New York, held in the Medical College on Friday, the 30th of April, 1847, for the purpose of expressing the deep sorrow felt by them at the decease of Professor John Revere, M.D., P. A. Aylett, M.D., was called to the Chair, and A. C. Becker, M.D., chosen Secretary. The Chairman appointed a committee, consisting of Drs. Quintard and Becker, and Messrs. Harris and Stanford, to carry into effect the objects of the meeting, and they presented the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

Whereas, An all-wise Providence has removed from among us our late beloved Professor, J. Revere, M.D., who has fallen in the midst of his usefulness, and left a void in the faculty of our Alma Mater, which can never be filled to a more perfect measure,

Therefore, Resolved, That in token of our admiration of his talents, esteem for his virtues, and regret at his loss, we wear the usual badge of mourning for the space of thirty days.

Resolved, That the committee address a letter of condolence to the family of the late Professor Revere.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the medical journals and the city papers. PH. A. AYLETT, M.D., *Chairman*.

A. C. Becker, M.D., *Secretary*.

Death of Dr. Sinkler, one of the Editors of the Southern Journal of Medicine and Pharmacy.—With feelings of unmingled grief we announce to our readers the death of one of the late editors of this Journal, Dr. Seaman D. Sinkler. Attacked, for the first time, and while in the apparent enjoyment of health, and in the discharge of his professional duties, in November last, with hemorrhage from the lungs; he rapidly fell a victim to that most inexorable of human maladies, phthisis, and expired on the 19th of January, 1847, in the 31st year of his age.

To those who knew him, eulogy from us would be useless. His manly virtues, mental acquirements, professional learning and zeal, caused him to be respected and loved wherever he was known.—After a severe course of study in this city, Philadelphia (at whose University he received his degree of M.D. in 1837) and Paris, Dr. Sinkler commenced the practice of his profession in Charleston in 1840. His career here was marked by unusual success. As a surgeon he had already performed many of the more important operations; as a physician he was kind, attentive, prudent without being timid, and skillful, and his devotion to his profession, in every branch, was unbounded and entire.—*Southern Jour. Med. and Phar.*

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. E. D. Payne, of Carroll County, Maryland, succeeded in extracting a pin that stuck fast in the œsophagus of a colored boy, which prevented him from taking either food or drink, and saved the child.—Professor Schonbein is represented to have discovered something that will supersede the letheon.—Messrs. J. C. & D. Hyatt, of New York, have issued a synoptical table of the complete anatomical models prepared by themselves, 449 Broadway.—Total population of the city of Paris, 945,721.—Dr. Darling's lectures on physiology, at Worcester, Mass., are well spoken of by the papers of that town. He has the qualifications—being both fluent in speech and happy in his illustrations.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Papers have been received from Drs. J. A. Allen, V. P. Coolidge and H. Cook.—Dr. Preston's contemplated article on the use of the Oleum Cajuputi, will be thankfully received.—It is unnecessary to say that we disclaim all sympathy with the tone which a controversy now carried on in the Journal has assumed.

MARRIED.—In Boston, Henry J. Bigelow, M.D., to Miss S. Sturgis; Dr. Otis M. Oliver, of New Bedford, to Miss M. W. Tripp.—Dr. Norman K. Johnson, of Hartford, Conn., to Miss S. Porter. Dr. Henry P. Fisher, of Brooklyn, Conn., to Miss A. Harris.

DIED.—In Philadelphia, Dr. George McLellan, a distinguished member of the medical profession.—In New Paris, Ohio, Peleg Whittridge, M.D., 51, and Dr. John C. Whittridge, 53, brothers, of typhus fever.—In New Orleans, Charles F. Snowden, M.D., 40.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending May 15th, 60.—Males, 28—females, 32. Stillborn, 7. Of consumption, 12—typhus fever, 11—lung fever, 1—dropsy on the brain, 4—diarrhoea, 2—canker, 3—asthma, 1—measles, 1—old age, 2—croup, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—infantile, 4—child-bed, 2—sudden, 1—disease of the bowels, 3—disease of the hip, 1—marasmus, 3—paralysis, 1—inflammation of the lungs, 2—convulsions, 3—brain fever, 1.
Under 5 years, 22—between 5 and 20 years, 6—between 20 and 40 years, 17—between 40 and 60 years, 6—over 60 years, 9.

The National Medical Convention—Preliminary Education of Medical Students.—The following are the resolutions which were passed at the recent Convention in Philadelphia, respecting the preparation of medical students for studying with a preceptor and for matriculation at the medical schools.

Resolved. That this Convention earnestly recommends to members of the medical profession throughout the United States, to satisfy themselves, either by personal inquiry or the written certificate of competent persons, before receiving young men into their offices as students, that they are of good moral character, and that they have acquired a good English education, a knowledge of Natural Philosophy and the Elementary Mathematical Sciences, including Geometry and Algebra; and such an acquaintance, at least, with the Latin and Greek languages, as will enable them to appreciate the technical language of medicine, and read and write prescriptions.

Resolved. That this Convention also recommends to the members of the medical profession of the U. States, when they have satisfied themselves that a young man possesses the qualifications specified in the preceding resolution, to give him a written certificate, stating that fact, and recording also the date of his admission as a medical student, to be carried with him as a warrant for his reception into the medical college in which he may intend to complete his studies.

Resolved. That all the medical colleges in the United States be, and they are hereby recommended and requested to require such a certificate of every student of medicine applying for matriculation; and when publishing their annual lists of graduates, to accompany the name of the graduate with the name and residence of his preceptor, the name of the latter being clearly and distinctly presented as certifying to the qualification of preliminary education.

New Instrument for making Extension in Cases of Dislocation of small Joints. By F. H. HAMILTON, M.D.—I have in my possession an instrument for making extension in cases of dislocation of small joints, which is, I believe, superior to anything which has ever before been invented or used. I scarcely know how to describe it so as to be intelligible, yet it is very simple. It is made by the Indians in this vicinity, and may always be had during the summer, at the Indian Toy Shops at Niagara Falls. The Indians call it a "puzzle," and know no other use for it than to fasten it upon the thumb or finger of some victim, and then pull him about until he begs to be released. The Indians in Maine, I am told, make the same thing also, and for the same purpose. The "puzzle" is an elongated cone of about 6 or 8 inches in length, made of ash splittings and braided; the open end of the cone being about three-fourths of an inch in diameter, and the opposite one terminating in a braided cord. When applied to the finger it is slipped on lightly, forming a cap to the extremity and half the length of the finger, and on being drawn upon, fastens itself upon the member with a most unflinching grasp, and if of proper size, and made of proper material, it becomes the more securely fastened in proportion as the traction is increased; yet applying itself equally to all the surfaces it inflicts the least possible amount of pain and injury upon the limb. When you wish to remove it, you have only to cease pulling, and it drops off spontaneously. In reduction of a dislocated thumb, where ordinary extension fails, it will be found of invaluable service—*Buffalo Med. Journal.*